West Hackberry Tertiary Project

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Annual Technical Progress Report (9/3/97-9/2/98) West Hackberry Tertiary Project

1.0 ABSTRACT

1.1 Brief Description of Research

The West Hackberry Tertiary Project is a field test of the concept that air injection can be combined with the Double Displacement Process to produce a tertiary recovery process that is both low cost and economic at current oil prices. The Double Displacement Process is the gas displacement of a water invaded oil column for the purpose of recovering tertiary oil by gravity drainage. In reservoirs with pronounced bed dip such as those found in West Hackberry and other Gulf Coast salt dome fields, reservoir performance has shown that gravity drainage recoveries average 80% to 90% of the original oil in place while waterdrive recoveries average 50% to 60% of the original oil in place. The target for tertiary oil recovery in the Double Displacement Process is the incremental oil between the 50% to 60% waterdrive recoveries and the 80% to 90% gravity drainage recoveries.

In previous field tests, the Double Displacement Process has proven successful in generating tertiary oil recovery. The use of air injection in this process combines the benefits of air's low cost and universal accessibility with the potential for accelerated oil recovery from the combustion process. If successful, this project will demonstrate that utilizing air injection in the Double Displacement Process will result in an economically viable tertiary process in reservoirs (such as Gulf Coast salt dome reservoirs) where any other tertiary process is presently uneconomic.

1.2 Summary of Key Results and Conclusions

Air injection on the West Flank began in November of 1994. Although West Flank air injection has increased reservoir pressure by 500 pounds per square inch (psi), production response has not yet occurred. The gas cap on the West Flank has not expanded sufficiently to push the oil rim down to the nearest downstructure well. Continued air injection is expected to further expand the gas cap and thereby bring about oil production.

To spread risk among multiple reservoirs, the project was expanded in 1996 to include air injection in low pressure reservoirs on the North Flank of the field. The project reservoirs on the West Flank are much higher pressure (2500-3300 psi) than the project reservoirs on the North Flank (300-600 psi). Air injection began on the North Flank in July of 1996. While West Flank air injection has not yet yielded oil production, air injection has increased oil production in all three low pressure North Flank reservoirs. Between July of 1996 and August of 1998, air injection increased North Flank oil production by 141,000 barrels above the normal decline. As of August, 1998, air injection was generating 280 barrels of oil per day (BOPD) of incremental oil production from the three low pressure reservoirs on the North Flank of the field.

While air injection has been successful in the low pressure North Flank reservoirs, additional air injection will be required to generate production response on the West Flank of the field. During the upcoming year, air injection will be split between the high pressure West Flank reservoir and three low pressure North Flank reservoirs with the ultimate goal to maximize production response throughout the project.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Background

The following report is the Annual Technical Progress Report for the fifth year of the West Hackberry Tertiary Project and covers the time period from September 3, 1997 to September 2, 1998. The West Hackberry Tertiary Project is one of four mid-term projects selected by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) as part of the DOE's Class 1 Program for the development of advanced recovery technologies in fluvial dominated deltaic reservoirs

Over an 106 month funding period from September 3, 1993 to July 2, 2002, Amoco and the DOE are implementing a field test of the theory that air injection can be combined with the Double Displacement Process to create a tertiary oil process that is economically viable for the domestic oil industry. Air injection on the West Flank of the field is testing the process in a high pressure (2500-3300 psi) reservoir which had watered out. Although the project originally targeted the West Flank of the field, Amoco and the DOE agreed to expand the project to the North Flank during 1996. The low pressure north flank reservoirs exhibit slow water encroachment, possess low pressure gas caps and contain thin oil rims. Injection on the North Flank is testing the process in low pressure (300-600 psi) reservoirs that are approaching depletion.

As part of the project, the Petroleum Engineering Department at Louisiana State University (LSU) has been subcontracted to provide independent study and technology transfer support. The Statement of Work for the West Hackberry Tertiary Project is included as Appendix A. West Hackberry is a salt dome oil field located in Southwestern Louisiana about 30 miles southwest of Lake Charles, Louisiana as shown on the map on Page 17. A map with the location of each of the project's four reservoir-wide units is included on Page 18. A type log for the sands in the project is shown on Page 19.

2.2 Conclusions

The following conclusions have been generated during the fifth year of the project:

- 1) Oil production has not yet occurred on the West Flank since the oil rim has not moved sufficiently downstructure to reach the first producing well. The gas cap has not expanded enough to push the oil rim down to the most upstructure well.
- 2) Air injection in each of three low pressure North Flank oil reservoirs has generated a significant increase in oil production.

2.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations are presented for the upcoming year:

- 1) Distribute air injection between the high pressure West Flank reservoir and the three low pressure North Flank reservoirs with the ultimate goal to maximize production response throughout the project.
- 2) Monitor reservoir performance with production data, bottom hole pressure surveys, well tests and produced oil, gas and water analyses.
- 3) Utilize production response to guide the timing for workovers and to guide the injection rates for each reservoir.
- 4) Update future technology transfer activities with additional project performance and production response.

3.0 Introduction

In the West Hackberry Tertiary Project, air is injected into a high pressure (2500-3300 psi) watered out oil reservoir on the West Flank and into three low pressure (300-600 psi) North Flank oil reservoirs that are nearing depletion. In both situations, air injection is combined with the Double Displacement process in an attempt to generate an economically viable tertiary recovery process for Gulf Coast oil reservoirs with pronounced bed dip. The Double Displacement Process is the gas displacement of a water invaded oil column for the purpose of recovering tertiary oil by gravity drainage. In West Hackberry Field, gravity drainage recoveries average 80% to 90% of the original oil in place while waterdrive recoveries average 50% to 60% of the original oil in place. The target for tertiary oil recovery in the Double Displacement Process is the incremental oil between the 50% to 60% waterdrive recoveries and the 80% to 90% gravity drainage recoveries.

For air injection to work successfully with the Double Displacement Process, the reservoir temperature must be high enough for oxygen to be consumed through combustion with the reservoir oil. Amoco has performed laboratory tests which prove that West Hackberry oil will spontaneously combust with oxygen in the pore space. The combustion of oxygen in the reservoir alleviates concerns relating to the presence of oxygen in the reservoir or production equipment. Oxygen in the reservoir can form viscous emulsions hindering the flow of oil in the well and in the production equipment. Oxygen that reaches the producing wells can also produce corrosion and or explosions in the production equipment.

In the high pressure (2500-3300 psi) west flank reservoir, the mechanics of the tertiary process involve: 1) injecting air into the crest of a watered out oil reservoir in order to fill the reservoir with a gas from the top down, 2) as the reservoir fills with air, oxygen is consumed through spontaneous combustion, 3) oil and water drain toward the base of the structure through gravity segregation and gravity drainage and 4) tertiary oil, which previously had been trapped as a residual oil saturation, is now produced in downstructure

wells. In this case, the economic potential of the project is enhanced by the low cost associated with using air as the injection gas.

On the North Flank of West Hackberry, low pressure (300-600 psi) oil reservoirs are found which have large low pressure gas caps, thin oil rims and slow water encroachment. In the low pressure north flank reservoirs, air injection can increase oil recovery by: 1) pushing the oil rim downstructure to the structural location of existing wellbores, 2) repressurizing the reservoir and 3) obtaining tertiary oil recovery through the Double Displacement Process in the same manner as described in the preceding paragraph. Although injection of nitrogen, carbon dioxide and natural gas have been utilized to increase oil recovery in Gulf Coast reservoirs in the past, this project is unique in the use of air as the injection gas.

4.0 Discussion

4.1 Project Performance (by reservoir)

4.1.1 High Pressure Cam C Reservoir on the West Flank (WH Cam C RI SU)

A structure map for the top of the Cam C-1 sand on the West Flank of West Hackberry Field can be found on Page 20. Throughout most of the project, the Gulf Land D (GLD) No. 51 served as an air injector in the Cam C sand on the West Flank. In October of 1997, the GLD No. 51 became plugged with iron oxide after injection of almost 1.6 billion standard cubic feet (BCF). On Page 21 is a plot of cumulative air injected versus time.

Efforts to clean out the GLD No. 51 were not successful. To help assess the location of the oil rim, the GLD No. 51 was sidetracked and logged. The location of the sidetrack hole is immediately adjacent to the original hole. The Cam C-1,2 was found wet and the Cam C-3 appeared to contain a small amount of oil pay. The sidetrack was completed in the Cam C-3 and initially tested nitrogen and oil with a high water cut. After several months of testing, the Cam C-3 watered out. The reason that the GLD No. 51 Sidetrack (ST) is still below the oil rim is an insufficient volume of air injected in combination with: 1)uncertainty as to the pre-injection location of the oil rim, 2)the large volume of the attic portion of the reservoir and 3)the high reservoir pressure (which inhibits the growth of the gas cap).

The GLD No. 51 ST is the highest well on structure in the Cam C sand. When the oil rim reaches the GLD No. 51 ST, using the GLD No. 51 ST as a producing well would generate the earliest possible oil production. If the GLD No. 51 ST serves as a producer, then an alternate wellbore would be needed to serve as an injector. During late September of 1998, the GLD No. 45 will be converted into an air injector. Although the GLD No. 45 is downstructure to the GLD No. 51 ST, the GLD No. 45's location is not directly downstructure to the GLD No. 51. Air injected into the GLD No. 45 is expected to migrate upstructure, accumulate in the gas cap and push the oil rim down to the GLD No. 51.

The GLD No. 51 was completed in the Cam C-3 in a manner that would allow for pulsed neutron logs to be run over the Cam C-1 through tubing. After the GLD No. 45 begins air injection, a pulsed neutron log will be run each quarter to monitor the arrival of the oil rim in the Cam C-1. When the oil rim reaches the GLD No. 51 ST, the GLD No. 51 ST will be recompleted to the Cam C-1 and placed on production.

4.1.2 Low Pressure Cam C Reservoir on the North Flank

In 1996, Amoco and the DOE agreed to expand the project to include air injection in low pressure reservoirs on the North Flank of the field. The low pressure North Flank reservoirs exhibit slow water encroachment, possess large low pressure gas caps and contain thin oil rims. In the low pressure North Flank reservoirs, air injection can increase oil recovery by: 1) pushing the oil rim downstructure to the structural location of existing wellbores, 2) repressurizing the reservoir and 3) obtaining tertiary oil recovery through the Double Displacement Process.

Air injection began on the North Flank in a low pressure (300-600 psi) Cam C oil reservoir during July of 1996. A schematic cross-section of the reservoir is included on Page 22. The SL 42 No. 155 serves as the air injector in the gas cap. A structure map for the top of the Cam C-1 is included on Page 23. To date, four producing wells have exhibited increased oil production as a result of air injection in the Cam C sand. A composite production plot for the four producing wells in the North Flank Cam C sand is included on Page 24. As shown on the production plot, air injection has resulted in increased oil production and reduced water cut.

In July of 1997, air injection was interrupted when the injector, the SL 42 No. 155 became plugged with iron oxide. Repeated attempts to clean out the SL 42 No. 155 were unsuccessful. The SL 42 No. 155 was sidetracked and returned to injection in March of 1998. As of August, 1998, air injection had increased oil production in the North Flank Cam C by 240 BOPD above the normal decline.

Through August of 1998, the air injection project in the Cam C consisted of four producers and one injector. A hydrocarbon pore volume analysis of the reservoir suggested that an additional producer might be needed to more effectively produce the remaining reserves. The SL 42 No. 98 was sidetracked from its position in the gas cap down into the oil rim to serve as the fifth producer in the Cam C. The SL 42 No. 98 ST was placed on production during the last half of September, 1998.

Air injection rates in the SL 42 No. 155 ST have averaged only 400 to 500 thousand standard cubic feet per day (MSCFD) due to iron oxide plugging the wellhead filter. To increase injection rates, facilities modifications are underway which are expected to relieve the plugging problem. One additional injector, the SL 42 No. 221, will be added to the Cam C reservoir during the fourth quarter of 1998 to increase injection rates and to provide a backup injector for the reservoir. After the addition of one injector and one producer, the North Flank Cam C will consist of two injectors and five producers.

4.1.3 Low Pressure Bol 3 Reservoir on the North Flank

In December of 1996, air injection was extended to a second low pressure North Flank reservoir, the Bol 3 sand. As with the Cam C reservoir, the Bol 3 reservoir has low reservoir pressure, a thin oil rim, steep bed dip and slow water encroachment. A structure map for the North Flank Bol 3 is on Page 25. As noted on the production plot on Page 26, air injection has increased oil production in the Bol 3.

Air injection in the Bol 3 was interrupted in December, 1997, when the GLAC No. 245 became plugged and efforts to clean out the well were unsuccessful. In the absence of air injection, production has fallen back to the level of the previous decline. An alternate well, the GLAC No. 42 has been chosen to replace the GLAC No. 245. The GLAC No. 42 will be converted to air injection during the fourth quarter of 1998.

4.1.4 Low Pressure Cam D Reservoir on the North Flank

Air injection began in the North Flank Cam D in December of 1997. The Cam D is by far the largest of the three low pressure North Flank reservoirs and thereby contains the most reserve potential. A structure map for the Cam D is shown on Page 27. The Cam D's low pressure gas cap, thin oil rim and steep bed dip are similar to those of the North Flank Cam C and Bol 3 reservoirs. Average reservoir pressure is approximately 400 psi.

Prior to air injection, the Cam D had produced through many wells over a period of over 40 years and was in the final stages of depletion. The air injection project in the Cam D currently consists of one injector and two producers. As of August of 1998, air injection had increased production by 40 BOPD over the established decline. The production plot for the North Flank Cam D is on Page 28. Over the next six months, workovers are planned that will add two producers and one injector to the Cam D reservoir. With these additions, the Cam D will have two injectors and four producers.

4.1.5 Composite North Flank Performance

The West Hackberry Air Injection Project is the first successful application of the use of low cost air injection to improve oil recovery in low pressure Gulf Coast salt dome reservoirs. From July of 1996 to August of 1998, air injection in three low pressure reservoirs on the North Flank of West Hackberry Field increased oil production by 141,000 barrels over the decline. A composite production plot is shown on Page 29. In August, 1998, air injection generated 280 BOPD of incremental oil production.

4.2 Operation of Surface Air Injection Facilities

By far the most serious facilities problem encountered to date has been the iron oxide plugging of air injection wells. After the injection well tubing strings were replaced with coated tubing, problems continued as a result of ongoing corrosion in the injection lines. Other recent high pressure air injection projects (North Dakota) have not had a problem with corrosion in the injection lines. The absence of corrosion in the other projects was thought to have been caused by carryover of synthetic compressor lubricant into the

injection lines. Injection of synthetic compressor lubricant into the lines at Hackberry failed to protect the lines.

While other recent high pressure air injection projects have not had problems with corrosion in the flowlines, the other high pressure projects did not have a low pressure component. The corrosion seen in the Hackberry project appears to have been caused by water condensation associated with the pressure drop from the high pressure compressors to the low pressure lines. Both high pressure and low pressure compressed air are still required for the Hackberry project.

Corrosion coupons have been placed in the air injection lines to assess the location and extent of the corrosion. To alleviate future corrosion in the injection lines, the use of a desiccant is under evaluation which would remove the moisture in the air immediately after the pressure drop into the low pressure portion of the system.

Wellhead filters have been installed on the air injectors to prevent iron oxide plugging downhole in the injection wells. While the filters have prevented plugging downhole, the filters become so quickly plugged after cleaning that injection rates have been restricted to a range of 400 to 600 MCFD. To relieve the problem of restricted rates and plugged filters, strainers have been ordered which will catch most of the iron oxide before it reaches the wellhead filters.

4.3 Technology Transfer Activities

The following is a listing of technology transfer activities from the past twelve months:

- 1)On October 6, 1997, a paper entitled "Keys to Increasing Production Via Air Injection in Gulf Coast Light Oil Reservoirs" was presented at the SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio, Texas. Over 200 SPE members were in the audience.
- 2)On October 17, 1997, an Amoco geologist presented a paper entitled "Air Injection Enhanced Oil Recovery and 3-D Seismic: Revitalizing an Aging South Louisiana Oil Field" at the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies' (GCAGS) Annual Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 3)During the last week of October, 1997, an article discussing the West Hackberry Air Injection Project appeared in the *Enhanced Energy Recovery News*.
- 4)On October 30, 1997, Amoco personnel reviewed the West Hackberry project at a technology transfer event in Houston, Texas, for the Texas Railroad Commission.
- 5) The November, 1997, issue of *World Oil* included an article entitled "A new/economically viable EOR process for the U.S. Gulf Coast" which was co-authored by representatives from Amoco and LSU.
- 6)On January 23, 1998, a talk entitled "Air Injection: Low Cost IOR for Gulf Coast Reservoirs" was given at a technology transfer conference in New Orleans sponsored by LSU's Basin Research Institute.
- 7)On February 10, 1998, a West Hackberry talk was presented to the monthly meeting of the Mississippi Geological Society in Jackson, Mississippi.

8)The SPE/DOE Eleventh Symposium on Improved Oil Recovery was held on April 19-22, 1998, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A paper entitled "Low Cost IOR: An Update on the West Hackberry Air Injection Project" was presented at that time.

4.4 SI Metric Conversion Factors

bbl x 1.589 873	E-01 = cubic meters
cubic feet x 2.831 685	E-02 = cubic meters
psi x 6.894 757	E+00 = kPa
Btu x 1.055 056	E+00=kJ

APPENDIX A

STATEMENT OF WORK

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STATEMENT OF WORK

WEST HACKBERRY TERTIARY PROJECT

Amoco Production company October 16, 1992

Background and Objectives

The goal of the West Hackberry Tertiary Project is to demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of oil recovery using air injection in the double Displacement Process. The Double Displacement Process is the gas displacement of a water invaded oil column for the purpose of recovering oil through gravity drainage. A novel aspect of this project is the use of air as the injection fluid. This technology will be applicable to reservoirs which have both sufficient bed dip for gravity drainage and sufficient reservoir temperature for the consumption of oxygen. Numerous water-drive reservoirs associated with salt dome fields along the Gulf Coast would be potential follow-up candidates for this technology. The use of air injection in this process offer the benefits of air's excellent accessibility and low cost combined with potentially greater recovery due to the combustion process. If successful, this project will demonstrate that the use of air injection in the Double Displacement Process can economically recover oil in reservoirs where tertiary oil recovery is presently uneconomical.

Based on a preliminary project design developed prior to commencement of the project, the following basic operational information has been determined for the study: injection rates; selection of reservoirs and fault blocks; required number of producing and injection wells; requirements for new wells versus re-completing existing wells; requirements for continuous injection versus intermittent injection; assessment of the disposal of produced gases by flaring or injection into low pressure reservoirs; unitization; and the design of surface production and injection facilities. The project is designed for injection into two separate fault blocks (Fault Blocks II & IV). In Fault Block IV, the technology will be assessed using a line of four producers at structurally equivalent positions in a heavily developed area. In Fault Block II, the technology will be assessed using a single producer in a sparsely developed area.

A description of each task associated with the project is provided below.

Task 1 - Environmental Study

It is anticipated that this project will be categorically excluded from the DOE NEPA requirements. Upon DOE certification, if this project does qualify for a categorical exclusion, this task will not be required. If this project does not quality for a categorical exclusion, then this task will involve activities, such as data collection and reporting, that are required by the DOE to meet NEPA requirements.

Task 2 - Construction of Surface Facilities

The necessary permits required for construction of the surface facilities will be obtained. Based on the preliminary project design, Amoco will acquire the necessary equipment/facilities to inject 4-4.5 MMCFD of air at pressures greater than 4000 psi. Surface injection facilities will be installed which consist primarily of the air compressors and water purge system for the injection wells. The timing for the installation of production facilities will be tied to workovers on the producing wells conducted in Task 5. The production facilities will consist of flowlines, possibly a Natural Gas Liquids recovery unit, and a separate-test-and-boost (STAB) facility. After separation and testing, produced fluids will be piped to Amoco's central production facility. Undesired produced gasses will be flared or injected into low pressure reservoirs.

Task 3 - Conversion of Producing Wells to Injection Wells

Two producing wells will be converted to injection wells. Initially, a single injection well will be dedicated to each of the two fault blocks. Two additional injectors (i.e. converted producing wells) may be required to improve the economics of the process. A typical workover to convert a producing well to an injector would require cleaning out the wellbore, perforating the full prospective injection interval, and completing the well with new packers, tubing, and wellhead (i.e. valves, etc.).

Task 4 - Operations and Maintenance of Injection Facilities

The operation of the high pressure air compressors in the injection facilities requires close attention to safety issues. Synthetic lubricants and periodic cleaning of injection equipment will be conducted to prevent the possibility of a detonation resulting from the combination of high pressure air and hydrocarbon deposits. Additionally, routine maintenance of injection equipment will be conducted to avoid the possibility of catastrophic mechanical failure. Workovers to repair injection wells will be performed on an as needed basis.

Task 5 - Workovers for Monitoring and Producing Wells

A total of 9 wells will be repaired and/or re-completed to serve as producing wells and/or monitoring wells for the project. The timing of the workovers will be dictated by the advance of the flood front. The task of monitoring the flood front is addressed in Task 6. Once the project is underway, workovers to repair producing and monitoring wells will be performed on an as needed basis.

Task 6 - Production Operations

All production operations for the project will be handled by Amoco field personnel assigned to West Hackberry Field. Produced liquids will be transported through existing collection lines to be handled at an Amoco Tank Battery. Initially, producing wells will be gas lifted within Amoco's field-wide gas lift system. When the produced gasses become

concentrated with undesirable components (e.g. nitrogen and carbon dioxide) due to breakthrough, it will be necessary to install a separate gas lift system for the project. The separate gas lift system will require a gas lift compressor. Produced gasses will either be sold, burned as fuel, flared or re-injected into low pressure reservoirs on the north flank of the field. Booster compressors may be required to generate sufficient pressure for injection of produced gasses. A flowline will be installed to the north flank of West Hackberry Field in order to carry the produced gasses to the low pressure reservoirs in that area. Monthly production tests, at a minimum, will be performed on all producing wells. Gas analyses will be conducted periodically to monitor the composition and oxygen content of the produced gasses. Produced oil and water samples will be analyzed periodically to determine their composition and physical properties. Pulsed neutron logs, bottom hole pressure surveys, temperature surveys, and spinner surveys may be run in both producing and monitoring wells in order to assess the effectiveness of the project. Periodic replacement of surface production and injection equipment (including flowlines) may also be required due to wear and tear on these items.

Task 7 - Reservoir Management

Reservoir modeling studies will be conducted to effectively manage the project. These studies will assist in assessing the following: distribution of injection volumes; timing of repairs and recompletions; and the determination of monitoring schemes and schedules. Amoco's "THERM" reservoir model will be used to history match reservoir performance and to predict future reservoir performance. Specialized combustion tests will be conducted at Amoco's Combustion Laboratory in Tulsa, Oklahoma to assist in monitoring and predicting the performance of the project. Reservoir fluid property analyses will be conducted to calibrate the reservoir model. The results of reservoir management will be continually documented and reported in a manner consistent with the DOE reporting requirements and technology transfer needs of the project.

Task 8 - Louisiana State University Technology Transfer

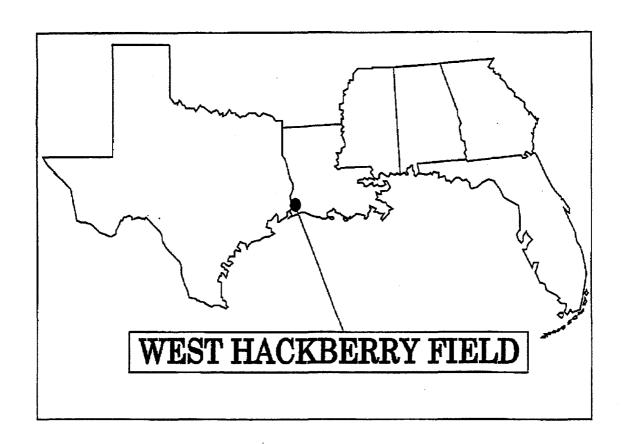
A yearly Amoco grant will be provided to the Petroleum Engineering Department at Louisiana State University (LSU). LSU will study various aspects of the project and report their findings. LSU will publish and make industry presentations on all results from their analyses. Amoco plans to provide LSU with all pertinent data and information from the project. Examples of typical data and information that will be made available to LSU include the following: individual well production rates; individual well injection rates; structure maps; net pay isopachs; core data; well logs; gas analyses; and fluid property data.

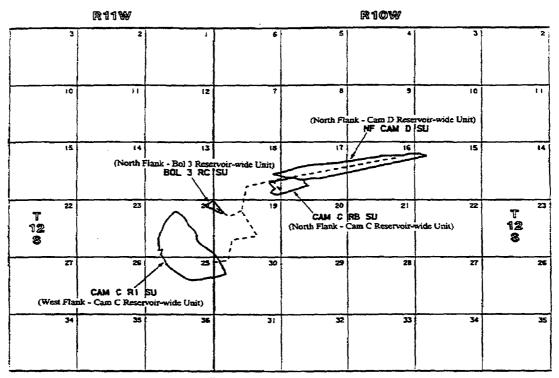
Task 9 - Amoco Technology Transfer

Amoco will assess the technical and economic feasibility of Double Displacement Process based on the data and information acquired from the project. These results will be documented and submitted to various technical conferences for presentation and/or publication. Since the Double Displacement Process will probably have its greatest applicability to salt dome fields along the Gulf Coast, Amoco personnel will focus on technical conferences in the Houston, Texas and New Orleans, Louisiana areas. It is anticipated that presentations and/or papers will be completed at the beginning, middle, and end of the project. Amoco does not intend to regard any data and/or information on this project as proprietary.

FIGURES AND TABLES

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Reservoir-Wide Units
West Hackberry Air Injection Project

Air Injection Lines

Air Compressor Located :N

*E/4. NE/4 OF SECTION 25.

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